

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006778

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. NEW JUNTA WILL NOT ALTER US-ECUADOR RELATIONS

EMBASSY QUITO CONCLUDES THAT THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN
ECUADOR WILL HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON US INTERESTS.
THE EMBASSY ALSO OBSERVES:

--RESISTANCE TO THE TRIUMVIRATE WITHIN THE ARMED
FORCES IS UNLIKELY GIVEN PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ'S FARE-
WELL BLESSINGS ON CONTINUED MILITARY RULE FOR ECUADOR.

--A PERSONAL RIVALRY BETWEEN THE ARMY AND NAVY MEOBERE
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COALD JEOPARDIZE THE JUNTA'S UNITY. (CONFIDENTIAL)

QUITO 266, 1/11.)

2. SAHARA: MOROCCANS TAKE VILLA CISNEROE

BOTH MADRID AND RABAT NEWS SERVICES REPORT THAT MOROCCAN FORCES HAVE OCCUPIED THE SOUTHERN SAHARA TOWN OF VILLA CISNEROS, WHICH THE SPANIARDS WERE SCHEDULED TO VACATE BEFORE JANUARY 15. EMBASSY RABAT COMMENTS THAT THE DEGREE OF MAURITANIAN/MOROCCAN COORDINATION IN THE TAKEOVER IS

NOT CLEAR--I.E., ARE THE MOROCCANS THERE TO STAY OR ARE THEY THERE TEMPORARILY BECAUSE OF MAURITANIA'S MILITARY LIMITATIONS? (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MADRID 144 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 151, 1/10.)

3. CONCORDE: FLY THE FRIENDLY SKIES?

EMBASSY PARIS, IN LOOKING AHEAD TO FRENCH REACTION TO THE CONCORDE DECISION, EMPHASIZES WE MUST BE QUICK TO EXPLOIT A FAVORABLE VERDICT AND EQUALLY QUICK TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE OF AN UNFAVORABLE ONE. CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF SCENARIOS, THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT:

--AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH DECISION AGAINST AMENDING THE CARRIERS' OPERATING SPECIFICATIONS WOULD BE THE WORST CASE; THE FRENCH WOULD VIEW IT AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT COMPLETELY FORECLOSING CONCORDE'S CHANCES IN THE US;

--A NEGATIVE JUDGEMENT RESULTING FROM A COURT CHALLENGE TO THE GRANTING OF LANDING RIGHTS WOULD BE EASIER TO EXPLAIN

SHOULD THE WORST CASE SCENARIO RESULT, THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, THAT COULD BE DONE TO MOLLIFY THE FRENCH. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HOPES FOR AS MUCH ADVANCE WARNING AS POSSIBLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 426, 1/10.) KISSINGER

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